

CPEC

California Postsecondary Education Commission

The Degree Gap: Are University Graduates Making Full Use of Their Degrees?

California Workers with Bachelor's Degrees

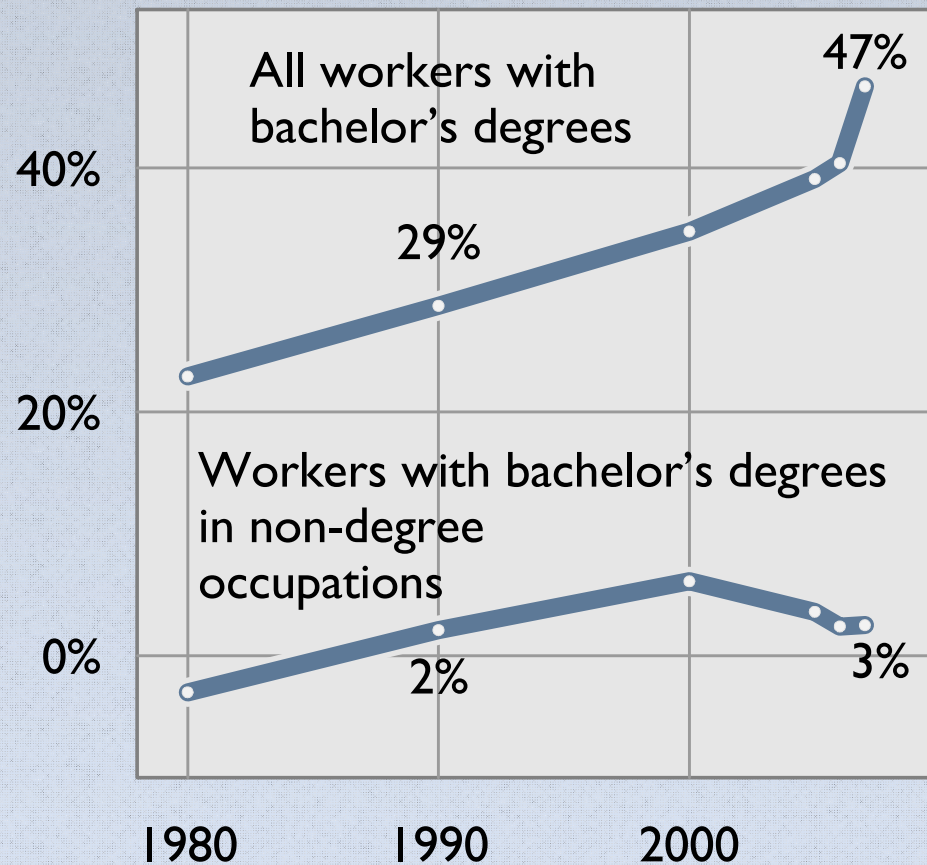
Table I

	Total workers with a BA	In non-degree occupations	
2000	2,060,000	340,000	16%
2005	2,300,000	410,000	18%
2007	2,430,000	450,000	18%

Workers aged 25 to 65.

Wage Premiums

Wage Premium (%)



The wage premium is the percent difference in median earnings of workers with a bachelor's degree and workers with some college or an associate degree.

Workers with Bachelor's Degrees in Non-Degree Occupations

Table 2

	Total workers in occupation	With a bachelor's degree		Annual earnings for mid-career workers with ...			Wage premium: Bachelor's degree compared with some college
		Number	%	High school	Some college	Bachelor's degree	
Office work							
Secretaries, admin. assistants	229,800	47,000	20%	\$36,000	\$40,000	\$45,000	13%
Office clerks	104,900	19,700	19	30,000	35,000	40,000	14
Miscellaneous office workers	45,700	17,200	38	32,000	42,000	46,000	10
Bookkeepers, account clerks	109,700	15,700	14	33,000	37,000	33,000	-11
Receptionists	67,300	11,200	17	28,000	30,000	37,000	23
Data entry keyers	32,800	6,200	19	30,000	32,000	40,000	25
Mail carriers	33,700	6,000	18	50,000	48,000	50,000	4
Clerks, office machine operators	35,800	5,300	15	28,500	33,000	40,000	21
Stock clerks, order fillers	76,600	5,200	7	30,000	34,000	40,000	18
Insurance processing clerks	22,400	5,000	22	35,000	42,000	48,000	14
Shipping and receiving clerks	62,500	4,200	7	29,000	32,000	40,000	25

Median Annual Earnings in 2007

Table 3

Educational level	Speaks English well	Does not speak English well
High school	\$35,000	\$21,000
Some college	\$45,000	\$30,000
Bachelor's degree	\$66,000	\$40,000

Workers aged 30 to 50

Next Steps...

- Assess labor market demand
 - Overproduction vs. Underproduction of degrees
- Examine wage premiums within occupations by education level
- Longitudinal patterns of employment of university graduates

